



MDPA news

Oct 2009 Concord, CA webmaster@mdpa.org Volume 37 Issue 10

Meeting Notice

Date:	October 16th, 2009
Place:	MDPA Clubhouse
Dinner:	6:30 PM
Program:	7:00 PM
Board Meeting:	Nov 4, 2009

October Presidents Message Steve Kennedy

The other day I was contacted by a reporter from KPIX Channel 5 to comment on the recent incident in Concord of a pilot buzzing his ex girlfriend's house. I was extremely conflicted as to what to say or if I should say anything. Part of me felt a obligation to portray pilots in a better light. Part of me didn't want to condemn a fellow pilot without an investigation. And part of me was really ticked off that this guy was giving us all a bad name. I choose to speak with the reporter because, in the end I felt that as a organization, MDPA should be a advocate for responsible pilots. I tried to explain what the FAA regulations were, and how pilots would normally follow those regulations. I explained to them about the KCCR traffic area, and traffic patterns. We overlaid some maps of where the alleged buzzing took place. In the end, they used about 5 seconds of video where I partially explained what the regulations were. If you didn't see it, you can see Robert Lyle's story at this link. <http://cbs5.com/video/?id=55812@kpix.dayport.com>

I was heartened by the fact that they wanted to present a balanced view of flying and of pilots. The story reflected badly on the individual, but not on the industry. Mr. Lyle, the reporter went to great lengths to insure he got input from many different sources. I felt that including an interview with a representative of the local pilot community the story was more balanced and hopefully the viewers won't be left with a bad taste in their mouth for pilots, and general aviation.

The only part of the story they got wrong was I don't know Tom Huey (the suspect) at all. They reported that I didn't know him "well". I think what I said was "I don't really know him", which I guess could be construed either way. Not a major issue, but slightly off. This does point out though, how each one of us is a walking, talking ad for General Aviation. If we screw up, it will get a lot of attention. If we do things right, we probably won't be noticed. We all need to remember to be considerate of our neighbors here at KCCR. Use noise abatement procedures. Fly responsibly. And for heavens sake don't use your airplane to stalk ex-girlfriends. Use your car. (just kidding... no nasty e-mail's please!!!).

On a lighter note, for October's dinner meeting Diane Kennedy is planning her Halloween spectacular. Costumes will be optional of course (Although Maureen wanted to make them MANDATORY). We will have a fabulous guest speaker. Lt. Col. James Warren, one of the original Tuskegee Airman, author, and a decorated military hero will speak to us. Because of this highly anticipated event, we will NEED your RSVP's as early as possible because space will be limited. We will probably not be able to accommodate people who just show up at the door. So please RSVP as early as possible.

Now, a word about officers for next year. At the last dinner in September, we took nominations from the floor for officers. Here is the slate you selected; for President, yours truly Steve Kennedy; for First Vice-President of Activities, (Trips) Vince Siebern; for Second Vice-President of Programs, Maureen Bell; for Third Vice President of Communications, Patty Gilchrist; for Facilities Director, John Summers; for Secretary, John Levy; for Treasurer, Beverly Levy; and for Director at Large, Bob Weiss. At the October meeting we will entertain any other nominations from the floor, and we will vote on these officers. You won't want to miss it. Respectfully Steve.

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Articles and photographs for the
newsletter should be e-mailed to

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Up Coming Dinners

October – Steve & Diane’s Halloween Spectacular – Steve &
Diane Kennedy

November – (YOUR NAME HERE)

December – MDPA –Holiday Party

2010 Officer Nominations

Steve Kennedy President - Vince Siebern VP Activities
Maureen Bell VP Programs - Patty Gilchrist VP Communications
John Summers Facilities Director - John Levy Secretary
Beverly Levy Treasurer - Bob Weiss Director at Large

October Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker in October will be Lt. Col. James Warren. Lt. Col James C. “Jim” Warren began his military career as one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, entering the Army Air Forces in March, 1943, and retiring 35 years later as Lieutenant Colonel. He served in WWII with the 477th Bombardment Group. He returned to duty in March, 1952 and flew over 173 combat missions in the Korean and Vietnam wars. He received numerous awards for his service, including the Distinguished Flying Cross with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal with 11 Oak Leaf Clusters, three Meritorious Service Medals, the Air Force Commendation Medal and many other awards and citations. His flying career of more than 12,000 hours was highlighted by being selected as the Navigator of Homecoming One—the first C-141 to fly into Gia Lam, North Vietnam to return the first group of American POW’s to Clark Air Base in the Philippines. He was also a part of the Apollo 14 recovery team, flying the Apollo crew from splash-down near Pago Pago, American Samoa, to the manned Space Center at Houston.

MDPA Mission Statement

The Mount Diablo Pilots’ Association is a non-profit organization based at Buchanan field in Concord, California (KCCR). There are many benefits to joining the club. The purposes of the Mount Diablo Pilots’ Association are:

- To promote good public relations between general aviation enthusiasts and the local community.
- To encourage participation in fly-ins and other aviation activities.
- To promote safety and educational activities for pilots.
- To provide mutual resources of information on flying for members.
- To furnish information and support to the Contra Costa Airport Advisory Committee and other governmental agencies concerned with aviation. • To be a proxy on aviation matters of community concern for its membership.



Lt. Col James Warren will be our October Speaker.



MDPA Member Dan Sorkin receiving the Master Pilot award from the FAA.

The September Meeting featured World Class Chili. Have it your way.



MMMMM HOT Chili



Bill & Suzie Landstra and Bob Weiss



John Summers & Lorraine Bartneck Discussing Chili



John & Beverly Levy, Patty & Mark Gilchrist, Jay McCartney & Teeb Thomas as warming up for the chili with chips and salsa.

A good turnout for the Saturday, October 3 Safety Meeting.



MDPA Safety Clinic
Saturday, October 3, 2009
Moderator: John Potter

October's breakfast safety clinic featured Flying Pig and a review of Pilots' responsibilities toward each other as well as to ourselves.

John also provided the following article from AVWEB (9/28) with local interest.

Reporting on your favorite FBOs is usually a feel-good occasion, but this week we found a story in our inbox from one couple who had to rely on an FBO as their lifeline when they encountered a terrible situation while traveling. Bryan Liang explains what happened and how Pacific States Aviation at Buchanan Field Airport (KCCR) in Concord, California helped him cope:

"My wife and I flew to CCR, hangared our plane with PSA, and borrowed its crew car. During our stay, we were carjacked. I suffered broken wrists and head wounds, and my wife spent eight days in hospital literally fighting for her life.

The PSA folks were our main support the whole time. They came to the ER with flowers Saturday night. On Sunday they rented, paid for, and delivered a rental car to the hospital for me. They paid for my hotel, waived fuel/hangar fees, waxed our plane, talked with me daily, and then drove us 1.5 hours to a commercial flight home. All because it was the right thing to do.

PSA's generosity and kindness lifted a heavy burden from us. They cared. Words cannot describe how much they opened their hearts to us and helped us feel we weren't alone. We are deeply grateful for all Greg, Shari, Jennifer, Marcy and the line guys did for us. They represent the best in aviation and the best in human beings. They deserve to be not only "FBO of the Week", of the decade, and of the century."

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Blue Skies and Tailwinds to:

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